



## **MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

**Held June 22, 1999**

**For the purpose of discussing Capital Projects Prioritization.**

The meeting began at 8:28 p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

PRESENT WERE: Council members Rodney M. Roberts, Alan Turnbull, Edward V.J. Putens, Thomas X. White and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; David E. Moran, City Clerk; W. Bowman Ferguson, Senior Management Analyst; Celia Craze, Director of Planning and Community Development; Ken Hall, Acting Director of Public Works; Hank Irving, Director of Recreation; Harry James, Assistant Director of Recreation; Jeff Williams, City Treasurer; Anne Marie Belton and Cathy Serra, Finance Department staff

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Sheldon Goldberg; Jay Remenick and Gene Davis, GVFD; Cheri Washington and Ellen Fried, Greenbelt Dog Park Association

Mr. Ferguson began by summarizing how the new Capital Projects schedule had been developed and updated.

Mayor Davis asked why certain projects had been dropped, specifically the overpasses. Mr. White objected to the term "dropped" and suggested that the city maintain a list of "projects where funding needs to be identified."

Mr. Roberts also favored keeping the overpasses on a long-term or some other list. Mr. Putens requested a discussion of the list. Council agreed to discuss this list towards the end of the meeting.

Mr. McLaughlin summarized the items proposed in the FY 2000 Capital Projects budget.

There was discussion of the Dog Park project and lighting. Ms. Fried favored lighting at night. Mayor Davis believed GEAC may be concerned about the lighting. Ms. Craze stated that the lights would be a street level lighting. Mr. Turnbull suggested using lights that do not "bleed" outside the park. Mr. Roberts asked what the \$15,000 covered. Ms. Craze responded that this amount would not cover the entire project, but they would do as much as possible. Mr. Putens expressed support for a second dog park at a different location.

Mr. McLaughlin noted that the Fund Balance was estimated at \$81,700.

Mr. Putens asked if the steps across from Hunting Ridge could be moved up on the list. Mr. McLaughlin responded that the steps were waiting for a possible traffic calming effort at that location.

Mr. McLaughlin noted the request from the Fire Department for increased funding for the station renovation project. Mr. Remenick reviewed the April 19 memorandum requesting additional funds. In response to a question from the Mayor, Mr. Remenick indicated the floor refinishing could wait. Mr. Remenick stressed that the fire alarm and the sprinkler system are the top priorities.

Mr. Turnbull asked about the rationale for an alarm system. Mr. Davis responded that the alarm system was needed to meet code. He stressed that very often the fire department is empty when fire fighters are out on a call.

Mr. Roberts expressed concern about the cost of the alarm system. Mr. Remenick responded that GVFD was looking at a less expensive system.

Mr. White favored applying the remaining fund balance of \$81,700 to the Fire Department project. He suggested contacting the County and State for more funding.

Mayor Davis and Mr. Putens also favored this approach.

Mr. Turnbull didn't wish to starve the fire house project, but was uncomfortable zeroing out the balance. He believed the city's argument may be stronger if it told the County and State it wasn't able to get the whole amount. He suggested \$41,000

Mr. Roberts favored the \$81,700, but wanted GVFD to hold off on the floor, so there would be a cushion.

Mr. Turnbull believed the Fire House had the greatest potential for County and State money and asked staff if this were the case. Mr. Moran responded that the City had not been successful in getting County and State funds.

Council expressed a desire to hold a Public Hearing prior to the introduction of the Capital Projects Ordinance.

Council examined the Long-Term Project list. Mr. White suggested holding off of the review of this list and the "drop" list so that members could review the lists and make determinations.

Under the drop list, Mr. Roberts suggested moving only the 3 overpasses off the list. City staff proceeded to explain each of the projects on the "drop" list. Council agreed to leave the following projects in, under a new list called "Projects Not Yet Funded":

Cherrywood Lane Metro Connector

Trail - Greenbriar Park to Route 193

Intersection Control - Cherrywood Lane at Metro Access Road (moved to bottom of 5 year)

Route 193 Overpass at Frankfort

Route 193 Overpass at Greenbelt Middle

Route 201 Overpass at Crescent Road

Overpass - MD Trade Center to Greenbelt National Park

Greenbelt East Recreation/Community Center

Next, Council reviewed the list of projects for long-term consideration. Mr. Putens suggested the Youth Center front doors and windows as a candidate for funding through a state bond issue. Council removed the following projects:

Perimeter Trail

Acquire Surplus BARC Property if vacated

Northway Ballfield lights

Schrom Hills Softball & Soccer Lights

Northway Improvements - Ridge Road to Ballfields

Council moved "Assessment and Treatment of the Bas Relief Panels" and "Historic Markers" to the 5-year list.

The meeting ended at 10:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David E. Moran, CMC

City Clerk